

4-16-2004

## The Hilltop 4-16-2004 Magazine

Hilltop Staff

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OUR

# VOICE



# the Hilltop

*the student voice of howard university since 1924*

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# A Small Dose of My Life & Style

Many people want the same things out of life. I believe how adamant we are about getting what we want and how we choose to make things happen make us who we are. Some people are afraid to be who they are and go after what they want. I am not one of these people. Although, I get discouraged just like everyone else, I believe strongly in expressing myself and allowing myself to be challenged. Although I am behind the scenes, as editor of the Life & Style section, I am given the opportunity to express myself while also providing readers with topics of their interest.

I started out at the Hilltop as a contributing writer. After about 2 weeks, I was moved up to a staff writer, followed by my Assistant Editor position of the Mind, Body & Soul section. All of these positions allowed me to do things that I love to do. However, I couldn't have been more thrilled when I received the position as Life & Style Editor.

When I became editor, I gained a new respect for the staff. The work is definitely time-consuming and quite strenuous. However, the outcome is worth all the sleepless nights.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to become Life & Style Editor and I am also glad that I will be continuing this position. So although, it is finally over; it is also just beginning!

To my fellow Hilltop staff, thanks for all your help, accolades, and even constructive criticism- For those who are leaving take my blessings with you and for those who will continue next year-It's on and Poppin!

Peace & Blessings  
Miss Erica Williams

Special Thanks to my wonderful family who instilled in me faith and courage. Also thank you to all of my friends and supporters at home and at HU(Jameca-your name is in print). To my TEAM- Barbara, you are my angel in disguise. Mekkie, you are my partner in crime. Shayla, so far so good, right! Thanks to everyone who reads the Hilltop (you can't read pictures).

In My Own Words: Life is what you Make of It..... Your Style is the Result!



# What I've learned so far at HU...

By Danielle Scruggs

**I**t seems like only yesterday I arrived at Howard, fresh out of high school, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, not to mention SCARED TO DEATH. Now that my sophomore year is coming to an end, it seems surreal that I'm halfway done with my tenure at the real HU. During my time here, I've learned a lot about life and myself such as...

1. Never take 19 credits in a semester unless it's absolutely necessary.
2. No matter how bad you have it, someone's going through the same thing or even worse. Don't assume you're alone in your pain, because we all struggle.
3. Pseudo-Afrocentrics are quite annoying.
4. Dave Chappelle makes Wednesday nights (a.k.a. production nights) that much more bearable.
5. A lot of things sound better when you add b\*\*\*\* to the end of it. (Thanks Soraya and John)
6. Not speaking up for yourself gets really old, really quick and doesn't really get you anywhere. (Thanks Shani)
7. When life weighs you down and wears you out, it's easy to feel sorry for yourself. But the best thing to do is to keep pressing on and know that things will get better. (Thanks Mom and Dad)
8. Don't let rejection bum you out. When a door slams shut in your face, chances are a window just opened.
9. Urban Energy on a Saturday night is a great stress reliever. (Thanks Jennifer. By the way...N%\$#@!, WHERE'S MY GAT????????!!!!!!)
10. There's nothing f\*\*\*ing wrong with f\*\*\*ing cussing a f\*\*\*ing lot. (Thanks Aisha)
11. There's also nothing wrong with acting like a big kid. (Poet)
12. Take the utmost pride in your work. You're not doing it for your professor, your parents, or a good grade as much as you're doing it for your own personal satisfaction and development. (Thanks Professor Braithwaite)
13. A little laughter goes a long way. (Thank you Aisha, Poet, Maya, Queshia,

- Nakisha, Shani, Arion, Steve, John, Amir, Carlton, Jennifer, Anjie, Terrence, Soraya, Vic and Ruth for cracking me up when I really needed it)
14. All-nighters in a dimly lit office in the basement of the West Towers with one working computer, no Internet connection and a server that crashes every five minutes SUCKS.
15. However, those same all-nighters have resulted in a fresh copy of The Hilltop twice a week for the past two years.
16. And the aforementioned all-nighters have allowed me to bear witness to a burgeoning MC, the poise of an ESPNer, the hilarious antics of a man-child, the 'randumb-ness' of one of my closest friends at HU, the ironic humor of our lovely copy chief, and the silliness of a kickass paginator.
17. Guys are definitely not always the best communicators.
18. It pays to listen to your elders. They actually do have some idea of what they're talking about and nine times out of ten, their advice is dead-on. (Thank you Mom, Dad and Professor Tucker)
19. Dwelling on the past uses up precious energy. The best thing to do is to chalk things up to experience and move on.
20. When you feel bummed out, listen to the best pick-me-up song ever created..."A\*\* and T\*\*\*es" (Thanks DJ Funk and Soraya)
21. No fraternity reps harder than H Psi Phi. (You know!)
22. People take ResFest just a wee bit too seriously. It's your dorm people. Chances are you won't even be there next year...



# Hilltop: The Bug That Bit Me

Ruth L. Tisdale  
Editor-in-Chief 2004-2005

Joining the Hilltop as a staff writer in my freshman year I didn't realize what the big hype was about. I didn't understand the love that people have for The Hilltop or why they stayed in the office night and day. When I became Campus Editor my sophomore year, I soon understood.

My sophomore year I was bitten with The Hilltop bug. You see this bug causes you to see the people that you work with as not just co-workers, but as a family. When I wrote the "Securing Howard's Campus" story, my Hilltop family stuck by me, though it caused them a lot of criticism. Late at night, when I had problems, I knew that I could always go to The Hilltop and someone would listen. Just like the famous "Cheers" theme song, The Hilltop office is a place where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came.

Just like any family I saw the ups and downs of my family. I saw my brothers and sisters fight and I even did a little fighting myself, but at the end of the day, I would let no one talk bad about my family.

As the year comes to an end, I look to the present.

Leesa "Diva" Davis- you encouraged me when there was no one else to encourage me. Thank you for believing in me when no one else did.

Shani- you are one of the few people I let drive my car, and even though you're going to District Chronicles you know that I love you.

Aisha (Anna Mae)- you were always someone I could vent and talk to. Thank you for always listening.

Makebra- I loved messing with you during Endorsement interviews and Editorial meetings. Thank you for always brightening my day.

Ashley- You will always be "Me-Me" to me.

Danielle- you made Campus complete. I thought that you were quiet, but you definitely proved me wrong. I know I may have been mad with you, but you know that you will always be my friend.

Ashley- you know you my girl, and you know that I'm always right when it comes to AP(smile)

And I look to the future of the

Hilltop.

Shara- You were my ace number one in the hole, and I could always depend on you to come through for me.

Charreah- Don't worry I started out as a freshman too. You're going to do great things at the paper.

And I look to the past

Kerry-Ann- what can I say to the person who introduced me to the greatest love of my life, The Hilltop. You are inspiration and a motivator to me. You push me to levels that I never thought I could ever go, and you wouldn't let me succumb to my fears. Because of you, I continued with The Hilltop, and because of you, I am where I am today. Beyond being the world's greatest section editor, you are a great friend. You stuck by me when my grandmother died, and you were a shoulder to cry on. For the rest of my life I will always be eternally grateful.

I thank my family for always sticking by me even through the difficult times.

Grandma- Even though you are gone from me, I know that you are looking down on me, and I know that you are smiling from heaven above. You are and always will be my best friend.

Momma- I love you. You are an inspiration to me. The reason why I work so hard is that I want you to be proud. I know that if I can be only have the woman you are, I will be a success.

Daddy- I love you, even though sometimes I don't call.

I know that this year, people got a bad impression of The Hilltop, but when I look at the great people and the bonding moments that we shared, my love for The Hilltop only grows and grows. This love will motivate me next year to restore The Hilltop to its glory years, and be a beacon of light to the Howard community.

For those of you who don't know

IT'S H Psi Phi  
TO THE DAY  
I DIE  
YOU HEARD.







If you think I'm cute now...

## ...She Said (For the Last Time)

Nakisha Williams

Be careful what you wish for, because every once in awhile it just might come true...

It was the end of freshman year and the "I need to join a campus activity" bug had bit me hard. I wanted to do something that would challenge me, help me grow a little, and allow me to get involved. I found my trusty "H-book" and tried to figure out what I would lend myself to. But it would be a Hilltop application that sat mangled on the School of C floor that would get my attention. I had never written so much as one article, I had never even set foot in the Hilltop office, heck I had missed the application deadline, but none of that mattered, I was determined to write...

You know, when I first started this job, I was nervous and excited. News may be the heart of a paper, but opinion is the soul. Editorials and Perspectives is a section that encourages thinking and expression and I love that. I loved hearing what you all had to say about life. I had this grand idea of creating thoughtfully and well-rehashed yet witty and readable 500-word ruminations (...She Said) while still doing an astounding job at writing editorials and just being an editor. Well those of you who read the page (thanks you two! and mom!) know that that was not always the case. Sometimes my col-



UH-oh! Hilltop hotties in the house!



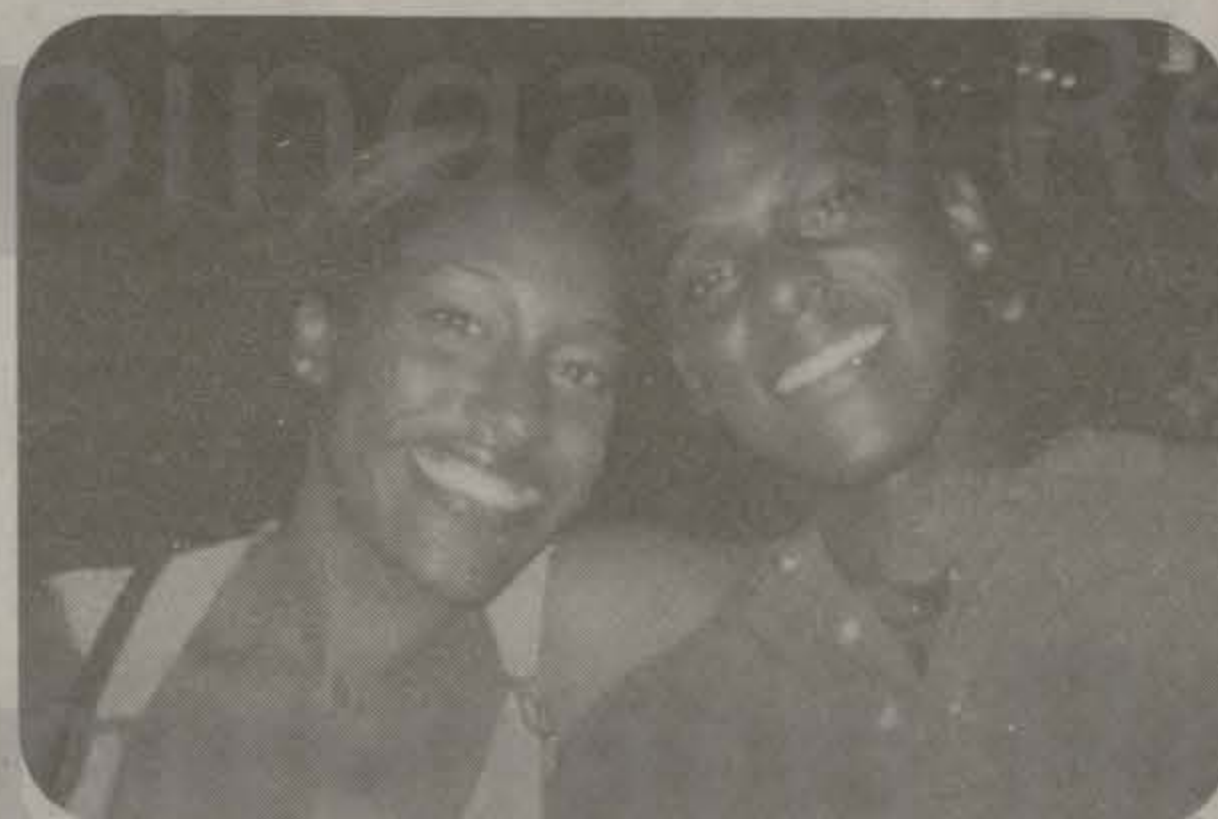
CHEESE!

umn was just me talking out the side of my neck, sometimes the editorials had errors in them, sometimes I just did what I had to do to get by—it has been a trying experience!

Although it has only been a year, I truly feel like I've been at the Hilltop for centuries. Forget glamour! Late nights, broken computers, dissenting opinions, and the ever-changing staff will tap-dance on your last nerves. People will dog the paper ("The Tabloid Times," "The BS Weekly" and the "Hillflop" are my personal favorites) right in front of your face. There will be times when your own staff members annoy and anger you.

There are nights when you wonder why you're putting so much energy and passion into the job in the first place. But at the end of the day, writing is your love so you suck it all up. Even when you want to quit, you don't. Instead you work your butt off to make sure that Howard University has a product every Tuesday and Friday. That's what I have tried to do, we all have. None of us claims to be perfect (contrary

*"If you're not living  
your own dreams,  
you're probably being  
used to fulfill  
someone else's."*



There's nothing like family! Gotta love my bean-head brother!

to popular belief we're not blind—we know that there are spelling errors and mistakes sometimes) we're students, we're learning just like you!

This summer, I'll be in New York at the Wall St. Journal online. I'm nervous and excited all over again, but after all my experiences at the Hilltop, I am going with confidence. So while it has been a challenging year, it has been extremely rewarding. Through it all, I thank you Howard family for giving me the opportunity to learn, to make mistakes, to grow. I thank everyone who ever shot me a kind word, constructive criticism, support. Mom: Thank you for reading every column, every article, every editorial (or at least saying that you did! ha ha!). Thank you for making me



Hang on to really good friends, for they are far and few between.

feel like I can do whatever I darn well please. **Daddy:** Thank you for listening to me rage about "politics" and telling me to preserve because sometimes it bees like that. **Dorianne:** you keep me sane, you drive me insane, I couldn't ask for a better friend! **Asha and CC:** I wouldn't have survived this experience without you two! **CC:** I missed you SO MUCH, but girl, they just weren't ready! Congrats on all your accomplishments this year, don't be a stranger. **Asha:** in this world where we encounter millions of people, I'm glad the universe let me bump into you. I can't wait to see the amazing things you will do next year! **Eish:** Thank you for making me laugh and for feeding me! "It's real in theez streez" sometimes! To the **Editorial Board:** You put up with me in meetings and I realize that isn't always easy to do, it really is all love though!

At the end of the day, and the end of the year being Editorials and Perspectives editor has truly reiterated one thing to me: If you don't have ANYthing else, you have an opinion. It may not be conventional, it may not be accepted, it may be a little off, but NO one can take it away from you. So many people spend their lives trapped in a box and don't think for themselves. But Howard family, you are so aware of what is happening in this crazy world—locally, nationally, globally. You are up on politics, you know the issues that are affecting our community. You are full of creativity, passion, aspiration, and goals. Not only are you interested in the world around you, but you also voice your opinion. Keep it up! Add your thoughts, criticize, rant, rave, compliment, applaud or be tickled pink.

Just never, ever stop giving the world a piece of your mind.

Nakisha Williams is a sophomore print journalism major from Oakland, CA—Oh don't act like you never wanted to know that!



Where to next? Only time will tell...



# Final

After four years, I finally get my chance to say what's on my mind! Howard University has been an experience that I can't exactly put into words. Only 20 percent of what I've learned here was in the classroom, while the other 80 percent were lessons about life that I learned when I stood in line to eat in the cafeteria, when I lived in the Quad and shared a bathroom with girls I didn't know, when I moved into the Towers and thought I was big s#! (Amanda, what you know about the 819?), while I walked up Georgia Ave from the metro hoping that no one would ask me for some change (If the truth were told, the reason I said no was because I didn't have any money for my damn self!).

The lessons I learned about life came when I was partying at 2:K9, wishing I was 21, so I could go somewhere else, when I was at football games watching girls with stillettos fall down the bleachers, when I hung-out with my friends on the yard during homecoming. They even came when I got my heart broken, when my car was stolen twice (I still haven't gotten over that s#! and my mother hasn't either) and when I was a R.A. in the Quad (I wouldn't do that again if my life depended on it).

Some of the most important things I learned about life and about myself came when I was in New Orleans at the Bayou Classic and in Jamaica for

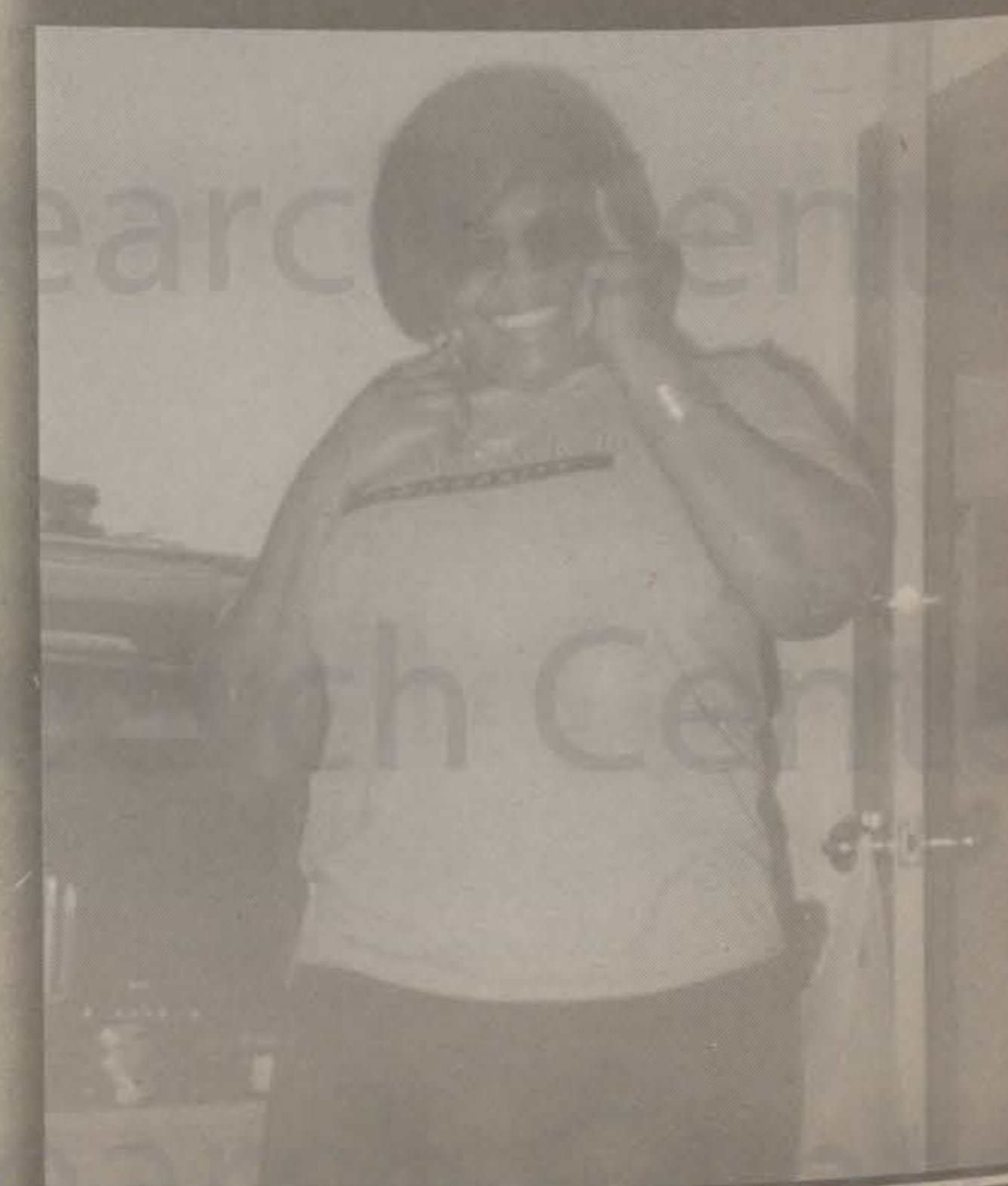
Spring Break (Jah and Kim, what happened in Jamaica, stays in Jamaica!). I also learned important lessons when I had to move off campus because I didn't get picked in the housing lottery and when I was a staff writer, campus editor and senior editor for The Hilltop. They came when I was asked to be EIC of BlackCollegeView.com (Janelle, you will be fine. I wouldn't have recommended you, if I didn't believe in you).

My most intimate lessons came from my friends.

Amanda I we've been friends for 14 years. You are definately my rock and I don't know if I would have survived Howard without you. Your friendship is invaluable--even though you made me get all dressed up for a party that didn't exist!

Shay RN your courage and boldness inspire me. We've definately had some moments. Don't forget about L.A. Confidential and our moments on top of Founders before they took out the benches. Oh yeah, don't be jealous because my hair longer than yours!

Crystal your uniqueness and determination are unbelievable. Sometimes I don't know how you do it, but I know it will be done. You are destined for greatness. You are going to blow up in a major way and I can't wait. I love you even though you almost caused me to loose my best friend!





# Thought

Jah Jeezy you are one of a kind. You are relentless in your approach and you understand me in ways that others don't. When you become a big time doctor, don't forget about us small people. I couldn't think of a better person to share my birthday with!

when no one else was there. I know you got tired of all my man questions, but you listened anyway. By the way, that "respect and protect the black woman" act is getting old! Oh yeah, thanks for the toilet paper sophomore year. I love you!

Kim Bo you are like a breath of fresh air. Your easy-going approach to life encourages me to relax and not take things so seriously. I'll never forget our time in Jamaica. It was then I got to know the real you. You are the *EPITOME* of a good friend!

Stacey Gates you are full of jokes and you made being at work and in The Hilltop office a lot less painful. I don't think people really understand how much time we spent in the school of C, but it's okay because it gave us the opportunity to get closer. Hold it down next year. Oh yeah. It ain't over till it's over. I hope C.G. is reading this. He just don't know!

Shannon who would have ever thought that a city girl and a country girl would have so much in common. Thanks for being that shoulder when I need it. I've honestly never met someone as crazy as you. With your personality, it's hard not to be your friend. You give without asking for anything in return and that kind of person is hard to find. Oh yeah, as far as the Stallion is concerned, may the best woman win!

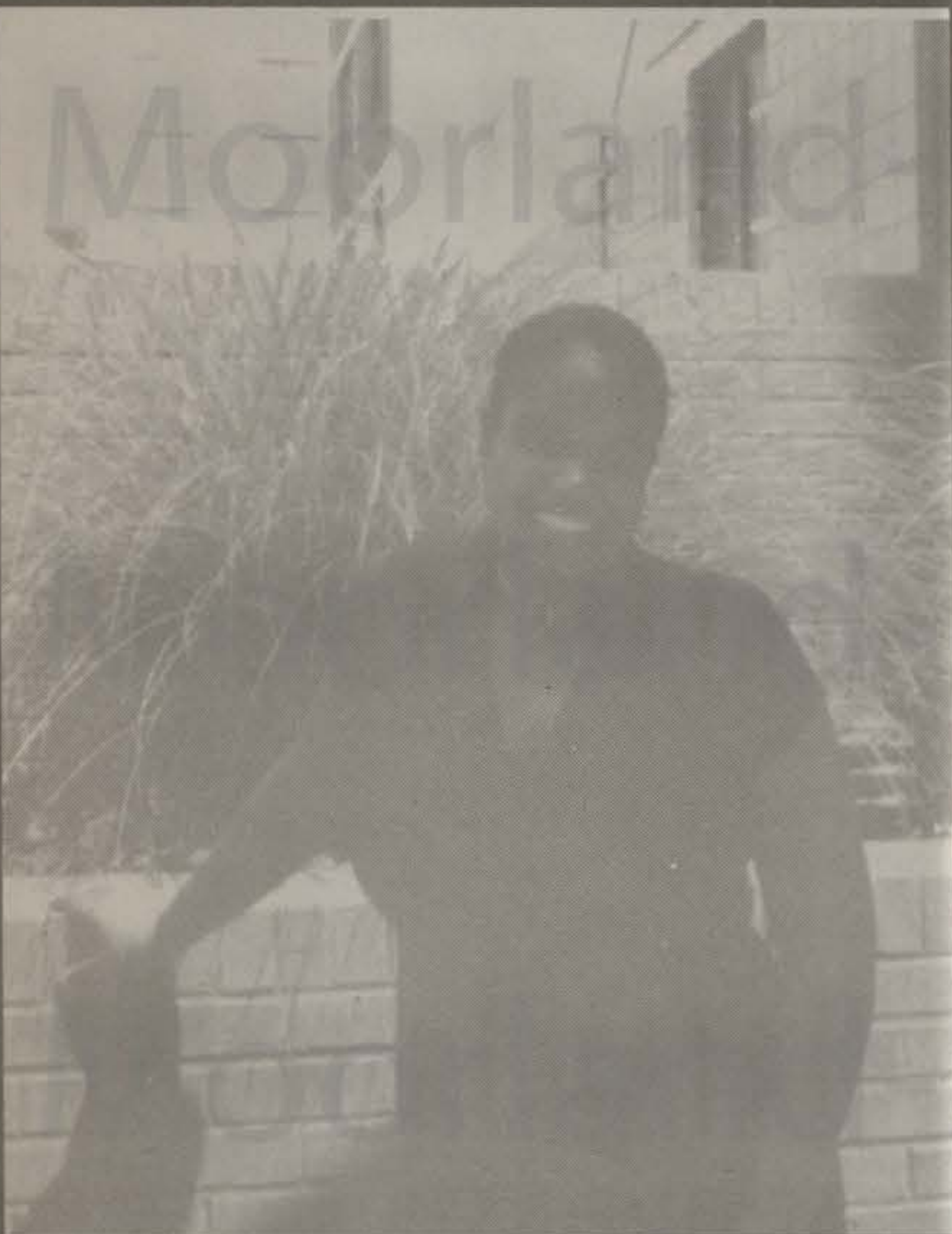
To my family, thank you for your support. Without you, this would have been impossible. Special thanks to my mom, grandmother and grandfather. You guys have been there from day one. You three are single handedly responsible for all of this and don't think that goes unnoticed. Words can't describe how much you mean to me. The three of you worked just as hard as I did to make sure I graduated. May 8<sup>th</sup> is for you!

Dushawn your dose of tough love wasn't always an easy pill to swallow, but I guess that's what friends are for. You made me a better person just by being you. I love you for everything and I hope I've been an example. By the way, next time warn me when you are coming out of your room!

I will never forget my time at H.U. Thank you for the laughs, the cries, the hurt and the love. Because of you H.U, I am who I am. I will always love you...

Fam you are the brother I never had. You have looked out for me,

KFF

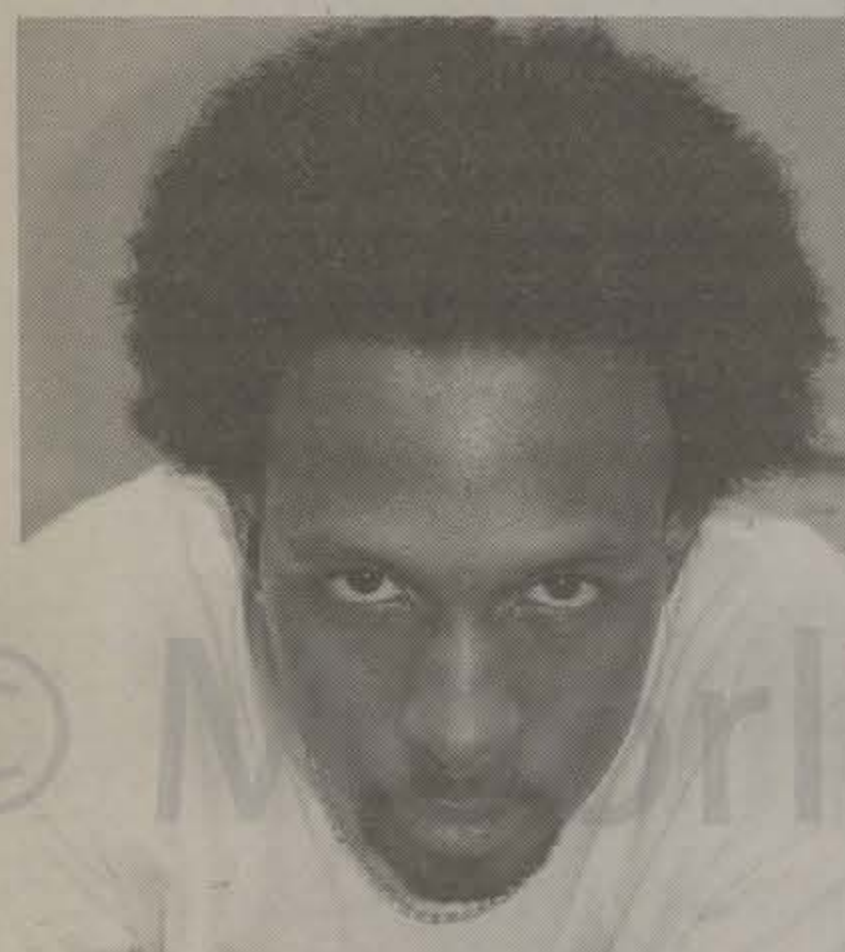
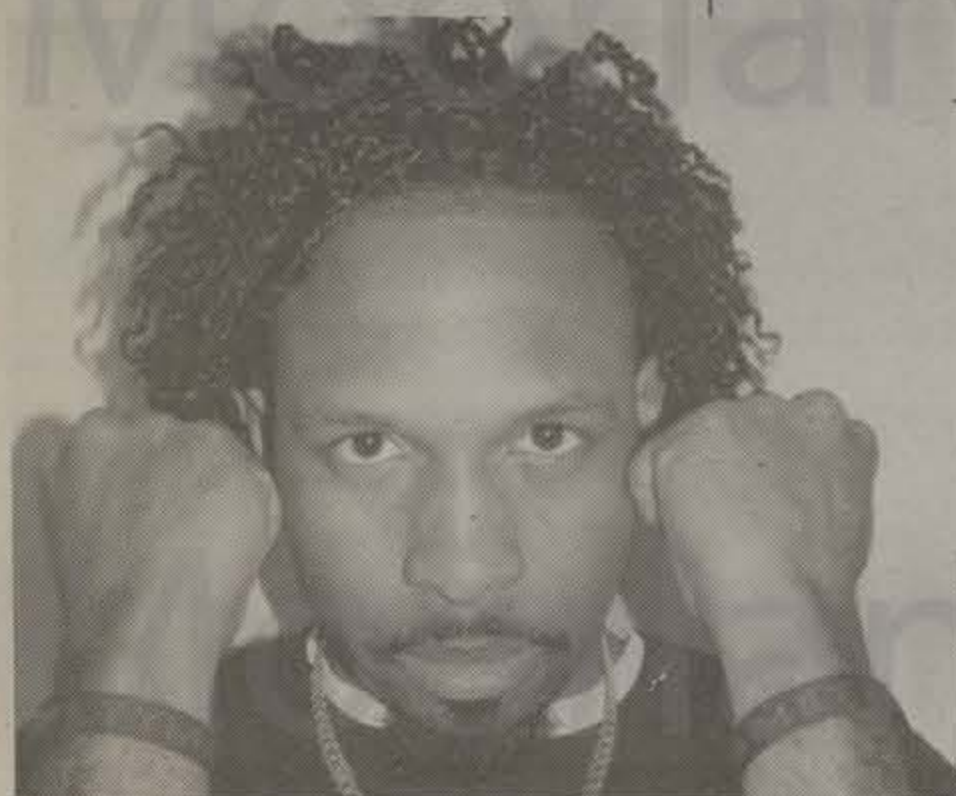




# 4th and inches...

**Shani-**

Thanks for the graphic, but most importantly, thanks for being so, so sweet. We got a special type of love...you're my little Smurf, the yellow one.



## so nice...i had to do it thrice

### ATTENTION, ATTENTION...

It's a rap, put the top back on the pen, let's fade to **black**. I am out this piece. No, I am not graduating, May *Twenty-05* because it's all about those fifth year seniors and I'll be here one more year.

By now y'all know the deal, I've been force fed my brain by the **LORD** so I am going speak my mind. Fourth and Inches isn't a column, it's an attempt to make changes. Remember that old playground taunt, "stick and stone may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?"

Well, no weapon formed against me shall prosper and you can front all you want, but words do hurt. With these thoughts, albeit way outside the box, it's time to shift the paradigm and hurt some feelings. I refuse to go quietly because these issues are only a microcosm of a much bigger picture. They're trying to stifle thoughts and hinder creativity. If anybody or anything goes against the grain of the propaganda, it's deemed unpatriotic and anti-American. We, better yet, US is on an ego trip and pumped on steroids trying to be the big swole. There's only one problem, nothing bigger than the **OUR FATHER**. This country seems to have it all backwards.

I know you're hungry, so let the truth be told. This food for thought has been prepare by the **MOST HIGH**, is free of charge and please believe, no matter how much you eat you won't get full. So, they can't stop the rush. We deep, soldiers got my back and we ready. They can't silence us all, it isn't possible. Even with the sound muffled, somebody somewhere is going to hear it. But, this isn't anything new. So what you gonna do now,

you backing down from the enemy because the pain is so unbearable or is it time to bite the bullet and knuckle up? Remember, the games on the line, you have one shot...It's *Fourth and Inches*.

## SHOUT OUT'S

Without the grace and mercy of the **LORD**, I wouldn't be doing this and that's real. I am a ghostwriter, he's getting all the pub and the fame; I wouldn't have it no other way.

Big ups to my biggest and loudest cheering section back home. My Moms and pops, I am just trying to make y'all proud. At 22 year, who'd thunk it, I love you guys. And **MINI-B**, you keep me grounded. Fifteen years old and driving, iam scared. You say you want to be just like me, naw B better. I can't mess this up, I gotta keep going, gotta keep running (*1 Corinthians 9:24*)

My second family, the Hilltop Staff I love all of you. I am not going to front, I don't love all of you equally 'cuz that's impossible. I love you all differently.

**'Ish-**

Four years and counting. You're the sister I never had. Even though you're from Cali, you and the whole staff, I am not going to hold it against you. But, not too many peeps can put up with my stuff, but you did. Without hesitation, you've been there for me whenever I needed you. Whether it was a floor to crash on for a few hours or a meal (you know I be hungry), you got my back. You doing big things and I am proud of you. When you blow up don't forget the little people.

**Arion-**

You got madd skills. I haven't seen anybody work Quark like you. Not to mention at five in the morning you're still able to keep you're cool even though we're the last ones in the office. You made the paper every week. You see things that most of us don't, giving every section that fire. I am not even going to talk about the Sports Section, people have seen it, they know. Thank you for bring my ideas to life. We might be the best duo on the paper, heck of all times; AP (Arion and Poet) style. Of course I am the side kick cause I couldn't be where I am at without you're guidance. All you need is a cape, a nickname and a utility belt, every good super hero has one.

## EMCEE MY-MY-

i'll put this in terms only you could understand/it's your pusherman keystylin' from the brain to the hand/like a snapshot, you're digital/MEGA pixels/no beat when u flow, straight instrumental/from the **Ca-Ka-Lac** to the **Chi**, we reppin' it loud/spiritually sky high like a nimbus cloud/and it's gonna rain/cuz we came to bring the pain hardcore to the brain/and they ain't ready, we too deep/stick shift to automatic stay hittin' the street/ridin' hard 'til we got four flats/**knight rider** and **max-ine**, who gonna stop that/with the sidekick and celly, you known for the hot ringer/got the golden eye with a quick picture finger/'til four and five o'clock, we got joke for days/it's pure comedy can't laugh just once, we call 'em lays/that's the third time tonight the server went down/restartin', losin' work, forget the hilltop it's time to clown/the A and B section always standing tall/iam out this piece like a fat kid in dodge ball...

**DJ HU-u-u...NEW SCRIT-it-it-it...COMING TO A CAMPUS NEAR YOU-u-u-u**



# All Good Things Come to An End

By Ashley Kelly

Although the 2003-2004 Hilltop year has finally come to an end, the ride sure has been worthwhile.

Last year as a staff writer for the business section I never really knew what it was like to be a part of something as great as The Hilltop. As the Business & Technology editor first semester and managing editor second, I have not only learned a lot about journalism, but also about people. I never knew certain people would have my back while others turned theirs. But this is not a venue to vent, this is an opportunity to focus on the positive.

**Courtney and Byron:** Thank you for filling the business section. I really appreciated your enthusiasm and persistence. I missed working with you two this semester.

**Chizoba:** Thank you for all the great stories first semester, but most importantly thanks for being a friend and listening to me when I needed an ear.

**Nerissa and Chris:** Thanks for acting as honorary members of The Hilltop and always coming down to help out. *Nerissa I guess we owe you a couple of paychecks!!!*

**Camillia:** Thanks for all your support. Look out !! (You know why)

**Stacey and Makebra:** We have laughed, laughed and laughed some more. I am really happy that I was able to get to know you two better this semester through our many moments of laughter.

**Josef:** I really have enjoyed working with you this year and really admire how you stand your ground regardless of what other people think. Most importantly thanks for believing in me when others did not.

**Ruth:** I am sure you will do a great job with The Hilltop next year. I have enjoyed laughing with you as well as our trips to Chipolte. Although we have argued about things like AP style and the correct spelling of certain words, despite EVERYTHING I have enjoyed working with you.

**Mary Ann:** I really missed working with you this semester. We always had lots of fun joking about how exciting e-board meetings were. I wish you the best after graduating and you will be missed.

**Rhasheema:** Simple stated: Thanks for always being on point.

**To the Tuesday Staff:** Where do I begin? I have enjoyed working with you all this semester and as a whole I believe that the issue has grown because of all of your hard work. Although things did not always come in on time, we still managed to pull it off. I will sincerely miss working with you next year.

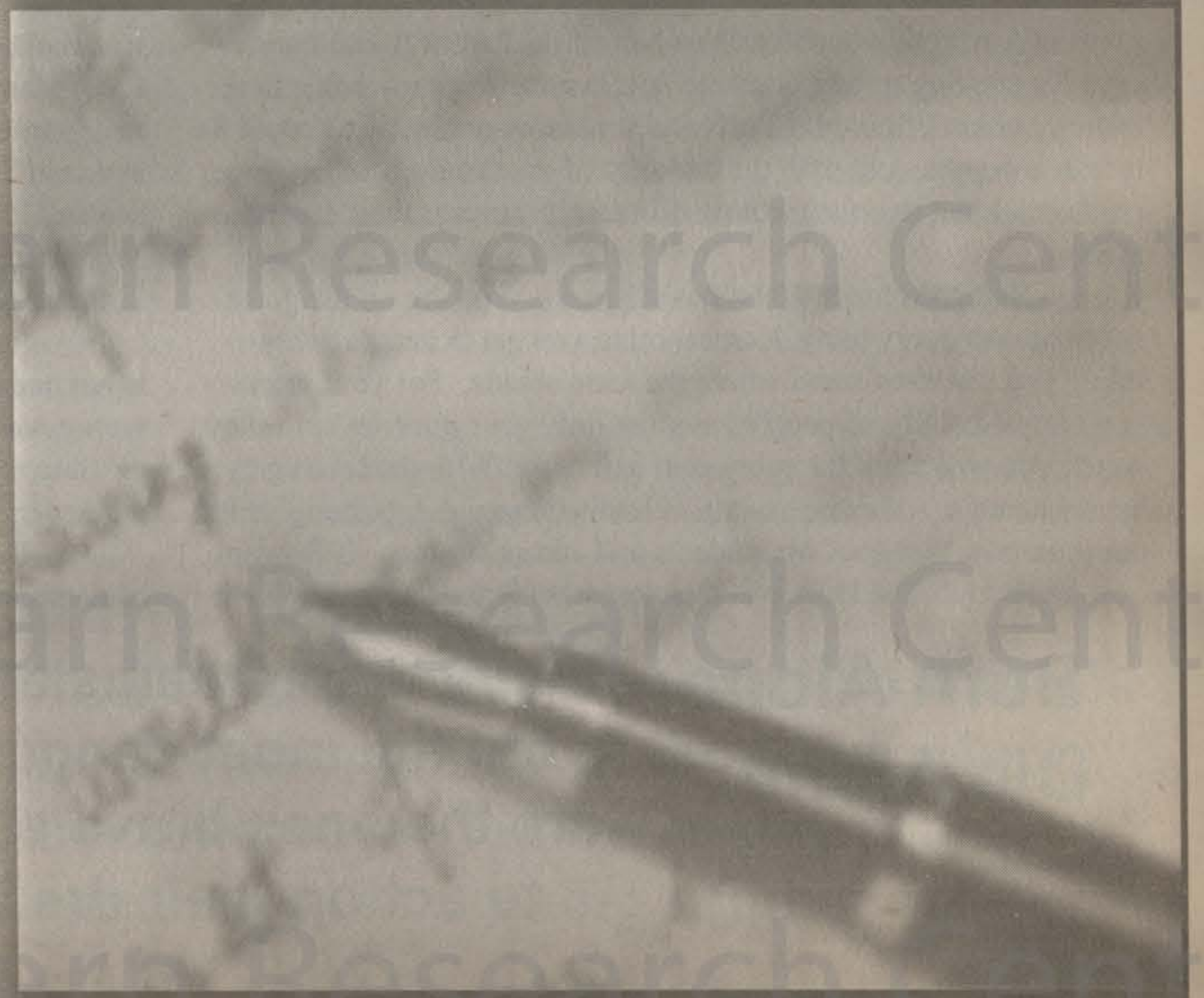
**Arion:** I think you are a great paginator because you are extremely creative and thorough. I wish you the best in your new position next year.

**Asha:** I appreciate your creative style and positive attitude. You always have really kind and intelligent things to say. Good luck in graduate school.

**Copy Editors:** Good job sticking it out through all of those articles.

All in all this year I have learned the power of the press and the importance of it. I have learned how an article can make or break someone's image. I have gained many friends through The Hilltop and some enemies I am sure, but at the end of the day I always tried to do what I thought was right whether people agreed with those decisions or not. I walk away from The Hilltop with a sense of empowerment and a greater respect for the field of journalism.

*"I have not only learned a lot about journalism, but also about people. I never knew certain people would have my back while others turned theirs."*





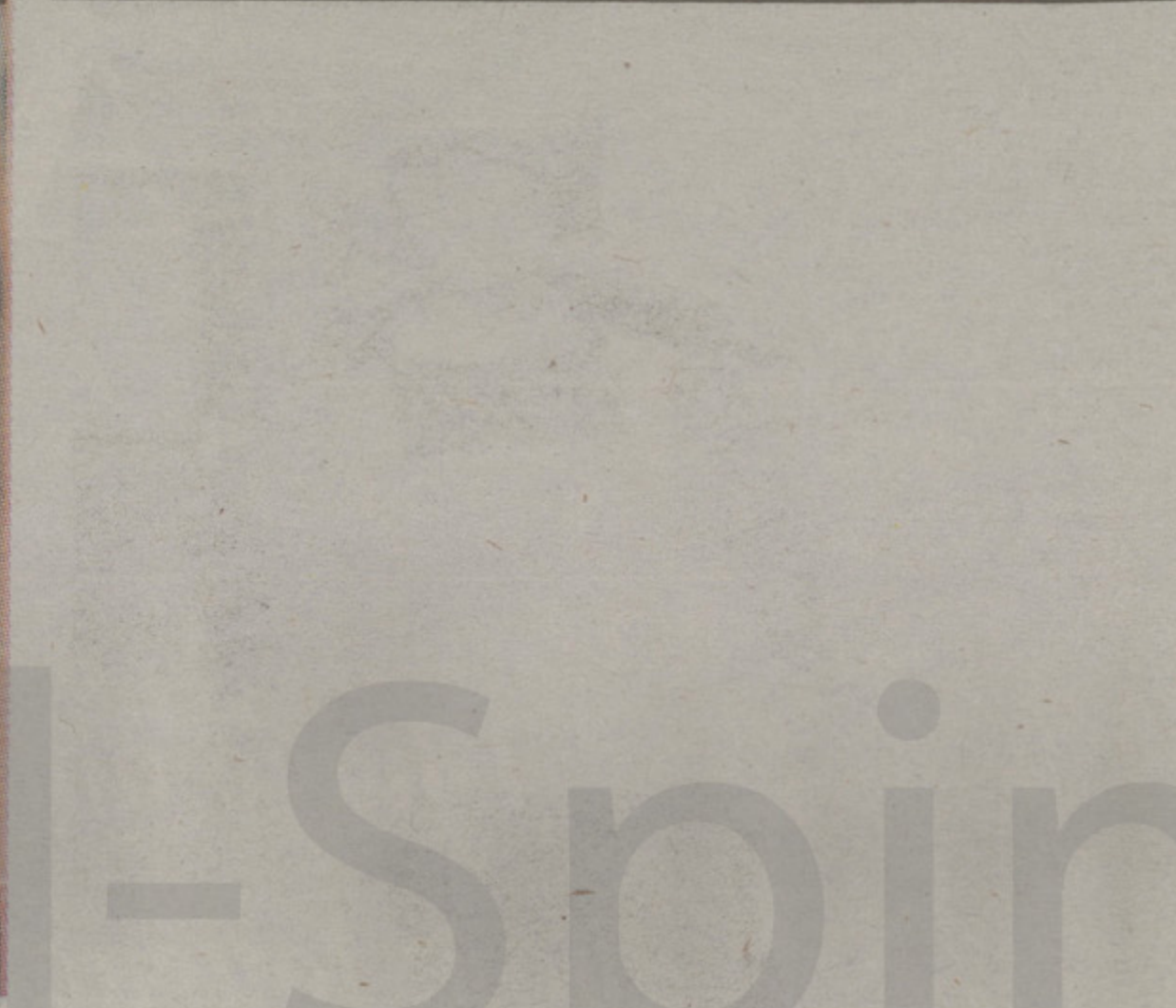
LOVE IS  
working as a freshman writer for  
**Free...**



LOVE IS  
writing 4 articles for one issue and  
then doing it again



LOVE IS  
consistently missing class to make  
**DEADLINES...**



LOVE IS  
staying up all night and crashing on  
the **Office Couch...**



LOVE IS  
never missing a day of work even  
**On a Snow Day...**



LOVE IS  
being the 1st EIC to graduate on time in  
since 1998...



LOVE IS  
Simply  
**Loving What You Do**



## I Have Played My Last Song



This is it. I have played my last song, written my last article and said my last goodbyes. From contributing writer to Editor-in-Chief I have done it all. I can safely say I have conquered Howard University. Reflecting back on my time at Howard I can see my transgression. This journey that is now ending began at the end of freshman year. Once I realized the historical significance Howard plays in America I wanted to be a part of it. Part of my selfish reasons for wanting to be Editor-in-Chief was to write my name in the history books. I figured if Puffy did it without graduating I could do it with a degree. And with the majority of my family being college graduates I had to do something different to surpass their achievements.

Being Editor-in-Chief has it's perks. You are on the guest list to almost every party, Homecoming you get tickets to everything, you can even stand where the team stands. For your work you are paid well and people envy not only your position but salary, which you will work for every cent and more. With the leverage you have whenever someone has a problem with you it gets straightened out promptly, that goes for students and administrators. If Howard ever had a mob The Hilltop is the closest thing to it and whoever is

Editor-in-Chief is a made guy. We are one of the few student organizations truly run by students.

But for all the power entrusted to you there is huge responsibility. For a year I had to forget about my family, friends, personal interests, and even dating became a distraction from my work responsibilities. Looking at pictures from the summer to now I have lost about 15 pounds from the stress alone. Tuesdays were especially hard. Many nights I didn't sleep, I won't even begin to tell you how many times I just got in my car and drove as fast as I could, as far as I could until the gas ran out only to see myself turning right back around. Each day my cell phone is cluttered with messages and rings nonstop. From people wanting ads to organizations calling for last minute Hilltopics.

As Editor-in-Chief you are truly a student servant and if that is not one of your objectives, then you are getting into it for the wrong reasons and will become a prisoner to the 7 day work schedule, late nights in the office, staff issues, and endless campus drama with every word being uttered becomes a potential story.

This year I tried my best to stay away from unnecessary controversy. One of my goals was to be the first Editor-in-Chief

that all the students liked. I extended my hand to all student organizations and student leaders. I wanted to work with everyone to make the Howard University we dream about, the Howard we all imagine when we go on the campus of predominantly white institutions like Georgetown.

But by the end of first semester I realized not everyone especially students Howard wants things to get better. There are people on campus who rather keep up petty beefs and organizational conflicts for no other reason than that's how it's always been. There are plenty of students who hate me for numerous reasons, which I think are silly. I am not one to hold grudges, my heart isn't big enough. I deal with problems and move on. Those who hate me are generally ones who got negative press, which if you do dirt then you get dirt. The Hilltop is not the public relations arm of the University. Then there are others who use to be my friends but when my favors (ads, hilltopics, stories) ran out so did our so called friendship and proceeded to talk bad about me. Those people I never needed.

Then there are HUSA and student government members and candidates who probably use old Hilltops as toilet paper. The

majority of those people who if you ask are still upset they did not get The Hilltop Endorsement, or we didn't publish their picture enough times to their liking.

But there are students and student leaders who aren't petty or about keeping up old grudges. As far as HUSA and the current student leaders Dan & Faith, Kareem Merrick and Charles Coleman I appreciate and can vouch for. Especially Faith for keeping our relationship open and direct. Whenever you had a problem with me you were direct unlike these newcomers to HUSA. To be honest if you want change or something done it's pointless to talk to everyone else but the person in charge because he or she has the ability to make change. I thank Charles Coleman for all the inside scoops and late night conversations that ran past 2 a.m. Charles you are a true blue blood brother, which our race needs more of. I have heard a lot of people, students especially quote Malcolm X or Martin Luther King Jr., but actions their actions prove otherwise. By being a true student advocate and nothing else in the boardroom your actions are living proof. Kareem thanks for not only believing but utilizing the power of The Hilltop. Thanks for also keeping me abreast of all your efforts and keeping lines of communication open. Lauren

Anderson thanks for teaching me how to survive.

To my beloved staff you all are my true friends. And words can't describe my appreciation and your dedication. All I have to say is 54 issues with subpar equipment. The majority of the students who hate The Hilltop I would say 90 percent of them wouldn't even last a two weeks as a staff writer.

Staff you all are the Talented Tenth Dubois talked about, and it's evident in where you will be working and interning this summer.

As far as the future of the University it's in the students hands if you want change. The Hilltop is your tool and vehicle for change. No matter the hate or drama The Hilltop's doors are always open to you and your ideas.

Therefore, you can either work to change all this organizational divide or keep the status quo, which only helps the administration.

As far as me, my time here at Howard is done. After graduation this May I will be doing something I always dreamt of as a kid: pack my bags and move to California. Ruth you got next!

**Born Alone  
Die Alone...**

**Every man dreams at night  
but the most dangerous  
are the ones brave enough  
to act on their dreams.**

**People Fear What They Don't  
Understand...HATE What They Can't  
Conquer...**

**To ALL those who HATED  
on me, I wish you much  
success even though you  
wish me the opposite.**

**A woman calls her husband one day to warn him there is a  
crazy man driving on the wrong side of the road. Upon  
hearing this news the man says "I know honey there are  
thousands of them and they are coming right at me."**



# More Than A Job...

## My Hilltop Experience

I still remember it like it was yesterday. Just two days after my mother's funeral, I was back at school, trying to find the strength to get up and go to class like a normal student, when really all I wanted to do was lay in bed and cry. Somehow, I mustered up enough energy, put a smile on my face, and headed to my classes.

Everything was fine until I got to my final class of the day: Fundamentals of Journalism with Dr. Kaggwa. Upon first impression, I thought he was mean and too strict, not to mention I could barely understand the words coming out of his mouth. I had never had a teacher like this before and I thought, 'this is gonna be a long semester.'



Aisha laying out the paper on production night.

I returned to my room in the Annex that night and immediately called home to find solace in the warm voice of my father... and of course, to vent after what I just experienced.

"Dad, this short, mean, African man with a thick accent is making us write stories for the school newspaper for a grade in my Fundamentals of Journalism class! If I wanted to write for the damn paper, I would've been writing already. This is so unfair!"

My father calmed me down and assured me it would be alright. He said numerous things in that hour conversation, but the problem was solved when he said the words, "Just write for the Sports section, Peach."

So that's exactly what I did. The following week I attended my first ever Hilltop budget meeting. An hour later, I had my first assignment...the Howard vs. Hampton football game.

I was a little nervous since this game was so huge and I wondered if I should've taken a different story since I had never really written before. But sure enough, everything turned out just fine.

Two weeks later, the Sports Editor told me he loved my writing and asked if I'd like to be a staff writer and the football beat reporter.

Fifty-five stories and seven months later, I was receiving the Clint Wilson Award for Staff Writer of the Year, at the annual Hilltop banquet. I was a bit surprised for two reasons. First, I wasn't even a print major, I was broadcast and two, I was a newcomer and just kind of figured that one of my other colleagues such as Josef, Jozen, Makebra or Kerry Ann, who started writing the previous year, would receive the award.

But I accepted the award with pride and knew there would be no hard feelings after I saw the smiles on everyone's faces and heard the applause.

I was appointed Sports Editor for the following year soon after, a position that fit me perfectly because of my undying love for sports. It didn't even feel like a job, it was just fun because I was in my element. After one semester, I was promoted to Friday managing editor...and that's the position I've held (by choice) ever since.

In my three years at The Hilltop, I must admit that this year has been the best, from start to finish. Sure, there were a few bumps in the road, and I disagreed with quite a few decisions that were made beyond my control, but overall, I personally have enjoyed this experience.

I made it a point to develop a personal relationship with every single person on our staff, because this was more than a job to me. Half my time is spent with these people, so many of them have become like family to me.

I'm happy to say that I've met some lifelong friends out of this. To those people (you know who you are) I want to say, THANK YOU and the many memories will forever be embedded in my heart!

And a special, special thank you to Dr. Kaggwa! I can honestly say that if I never took your class, I don't think I'd be in the position I'm in right now. I owe much of my success in journalism to you. Thank you for believing in me, for pushing me to limits I never knew I could reach, and for the constant support throughout the years. I will try to live up to the "superstar" sta-



Me at this year's Charter Day dinner.

tus you swear that I have!

Also, this page would not be complete without another special thanks to Mr. Ed Hill and Ms. Romanda Noble, my two mentors since I started writing. Thank you for all the pictures, story ideas, media guides, press passes, statistics, etc. And Mr. Hill, thank you for helping me become a better writer. You've had faith in me since day one and I appreciate that more than you will ever know. I love you guys and I will definitely stay in touch!

## My Colleagues

Me and Maya at the Charter Day dinner.



Maya- I love you girl, let me just say that now. You have your s\*\*\* together and there's no doubt in my mind that you will achieve any and everything you put your mind to. I will miss everything about you, but I'll especially never forget, "Ay Eish, can I get a hilltopics?", "Ay Eish, I need help with a moral decision.", "That's pure comedy!", "I wanted to smack the S\*\*\* outta her for asking me that stupid question." And of course, all the ciphers and watching you get better and better when you spit your bars. I will miss you but you know I'll come visit.

Shani- I can't even pinpoint how or when we became so close, but all I can say is I'm glad that we did. You've played such an instrumental role in so many aspects of my life this year and

Poet, Me and Jozen in the office after my Thanksgiving feast.



I'm so grateful for that. I never knew I could learn so much from a 19-year-old! But you've clearly shown that you're so much wiser beyond your years. Full of talent, spunk, love, determination and knowledge is how I think of you. God will continue to bless you my dear, because you know how to be the bigger person and you do what's right, when dealing with adversity. I'm 100% sure that you'll do the damn thing, running the District Chronicles next year. I love you and continue to keep your eyes on the prize and shake those haters off. I promise, they don't ever go away.

P- I never knew I could have so much love for someone of the opposite sex in a strictly platonic manner. You've been there for me through thick and thin and I really appreciate it. Way to

hold down Sports the past year and a half. You better hold down the Friday M.E. position next year, too! I see you tryna be like me :-). I'm so proud of you for the decisions you've made in your life to truly become a stronger man of God. I love you and I know our friendship will only get stronger as the years pass.

Arion- The best paginator in the world! Thanks for all the laughs and the late nite office talk. I'll miss ya!

Danielle- Its real in these streetz man. Yo, but on some real s\*\*\*, you are a great writer! I know that was random (typical Aisha) but I don't think you realize how good your writing is. I've enjoyed working with you and watching you grow. I definitely f\*\*\*s with you fo life!

Nakisha- I will miss reading your

Maya, Me & Shani at last year's Hilltop Banquet.



columns and our weekly conversations where we catch up on what's going on in our lives. Good luck in NY this summer! Keep reppin the 'yay!

Asha- You are one of the funniest people ever in life! I loved being in the office with you and I really loved going to the Boys&Girls Club with you. I know you'll be successful in whatever you decide to do in life. Love ya!

Ruthie- Good luck as EIC next year! PLEASE steer this paper back in the right direction. Remember everything we talked about aight.

Rhasheema- Your section was tight every single week! You've accomplished so much this year and I know you will continue to do big things. I enjoyed working with you here and with HUABJ. Good luck at the Tribune this summer and as M.E. next

Me and Prof. Lamb at the Charter Day dinner.



year.

Erica- Such a quick learner! You always came through every week with L&S. I'm proud of you girl, keep up the good work. I know you'll hold it down next year too!

Soraya- My former protege...you've done a wonderful job with Sports this year. I wish you all the best at the AP this summer!

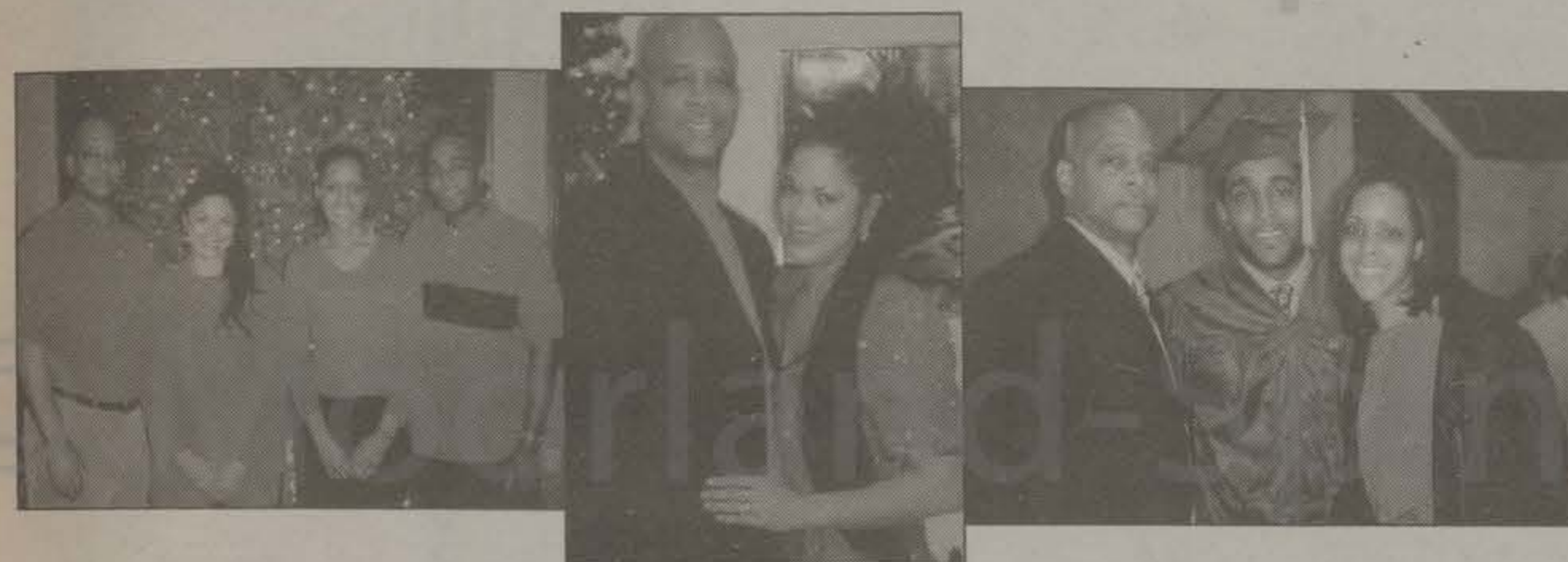
Josef- Four years dawg...its been real. In all honesty though, I must say that I like being your friend much better than being your co-worker. Good luck in your future endeavors!

Professor Lamb- Thank you for always being there for me whenever I needed advice. You helped me through some tough times and I really appreciate it. You are the best advisor! Take Care!



# ...More Like a Family

## My Support System



From left, Dad, Debbie, Me & Tariq, Dad and Debbie at Christmas, and Dad, Tariq and Me at T's graduation from ASU.

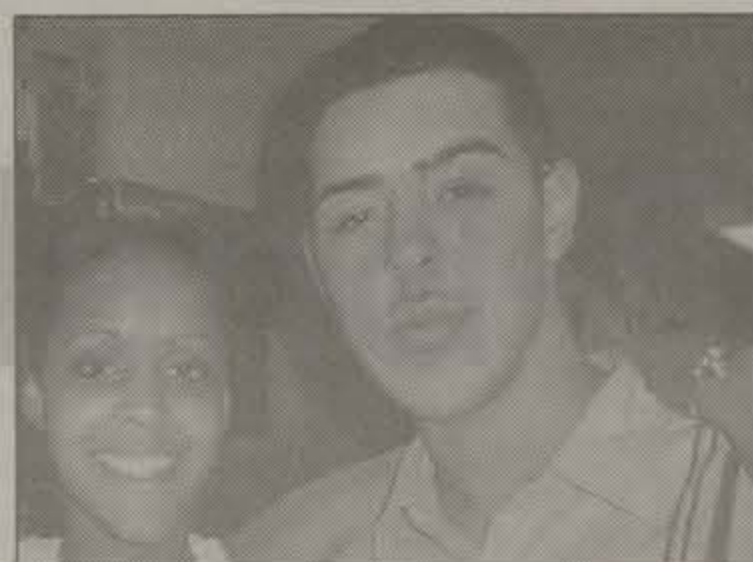
I am the woman I am today because of the three of you. I thank the Lord every single day for blessing me with such a loving and supportive family. Everything I know is because of you. You are the reason that I continue to persevere despite what obstacles are in my way. I can't thank you enough. Dad, you are my heart. I don't know what I would do without any of you and it makes me sick to my stomach to even fathom the thought of living in this world without you. I love you with ALL of my heart!



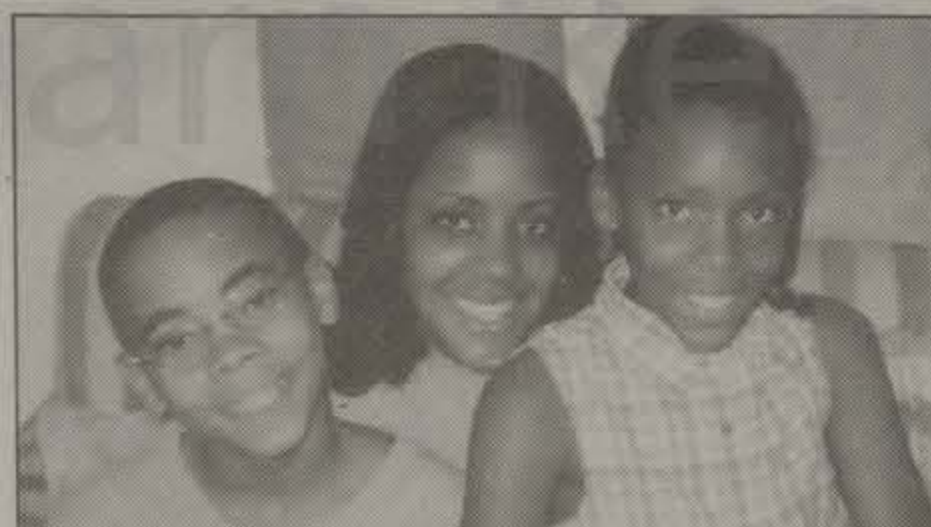
(From left clockwise, LaDreena, Jessica, Me and Melissa in my backyard during Spring Break this year, Me and Stephanie at the Diner last semester and Me and Chauna at the NABJ Convention in Milwaukee last year.)

Friends like you are very far and few between. I want to thank you guys for always being there for me, through thick and thin. I couldn't have asked God for better friends. L- good luck in Law School, Obaba-good luck in Med School, Melly Mel- don't hurt em' too bad at Deloitte, Steph-you'll be a great event planner! Chauna-have fun in Spain! I love you guys. Forever Friends!

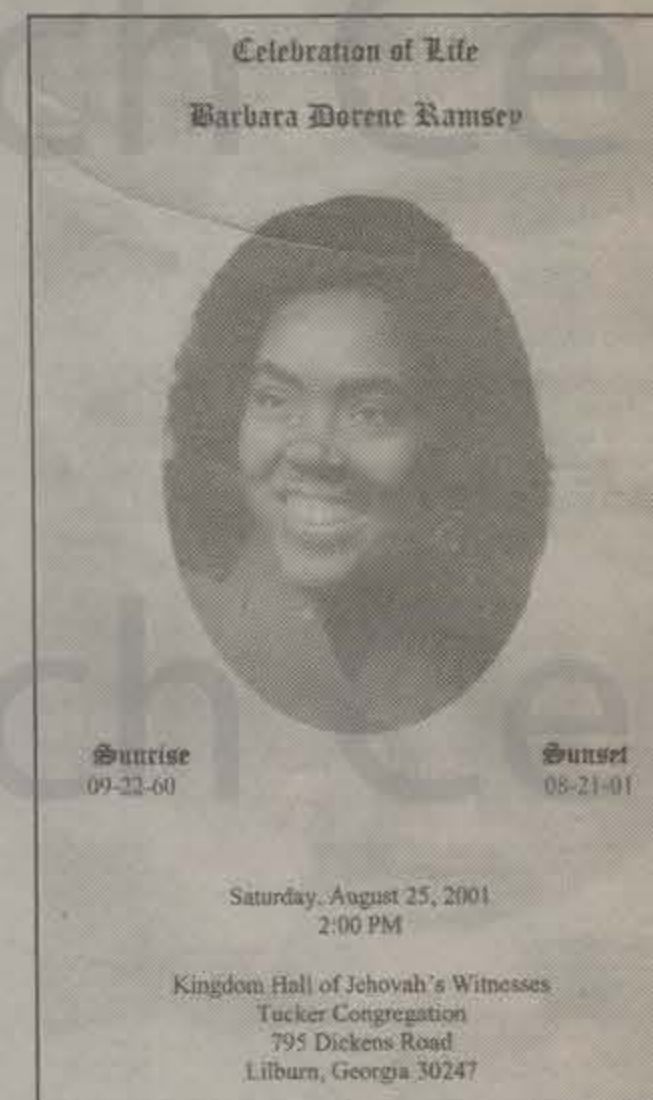
## Gone But Not Forgotten



From top left clockwise, Me with CC, Jozen, Leesa, Stephanie and Jennifer. Things haven't been the same since each one of you left, and all for different reasons. All I have to say is I love you all, I miss working with each and every one of you, and good luck in all of your future endeavors. CC and Jennifer, I'm sorry I couldn't do more. I may be in a position of power, but I *clearly* don't call all the shots. I'm not saying bye cuz I know I'll be keeping in touch with all ya'll.



Left, Kalin, Me & Alexis last September in Georgia, bottom, My mother and I the summer before she passed away, right, my mother's obituary.



**Kalin & Alexis-** You are the two bravest little kids in the world. You went through one of the most terrifying experiences two children could possibly go through, yet you've somehow managed to keep it together. Whenever I start to miss mommy to the point where I can't bear it, all I have to do is take one glance at your smiling faces sitting in the picture frames next to my bed, or call to hear your soothing voices. Just knowing that you both are okay makes me feel better immediately. I love you more than words can say and I can't wait to spend more time with you after I graduate. I will always be here for you babies! Never ever forget that.

**Mom-** It's still hard for me to grasp the fact that I will be graduating from college in a few short weeks and you will not be there. At least

not in the flesh, but I know you will be smiling down on me, and I'll hear your voice saying, "I'm so proud of you, Precious", as I receive my diploma. I owe my success to many people, but the main person is you. Every time I get stressed out or whenever I hit a bump in the road and think that I can't get past it, I immediately think of you and the fact that in the nine years you lived with a brain tumor, I never once saw you cry or complain. Somehow, whatever I'm going through just seems minor and I'm able to do any and everything I put my mind to. You are definitely my source of strength and you are the main reason I am so determined.

I miss you so much that it hurts sometimes, Mom. I promise that I will continue to make you proud. I love you forever!



Me and Jeron chillin'.

**Jeron-** You're right, our relationship does seem so surreal right now. I never would've thought that we'd get to the point that we're at, but I'm glad that we are. I could sit here and write a long list of why you make me so happy, but that's our personal business, so it will stay between us. All I have to say is that I DO NOT regret the decision I made and I want to thank you for being so patient with me. I'm glad you understand why it took so long. God definitely has a plan for us...I can't wait to see what it is.



## My Future

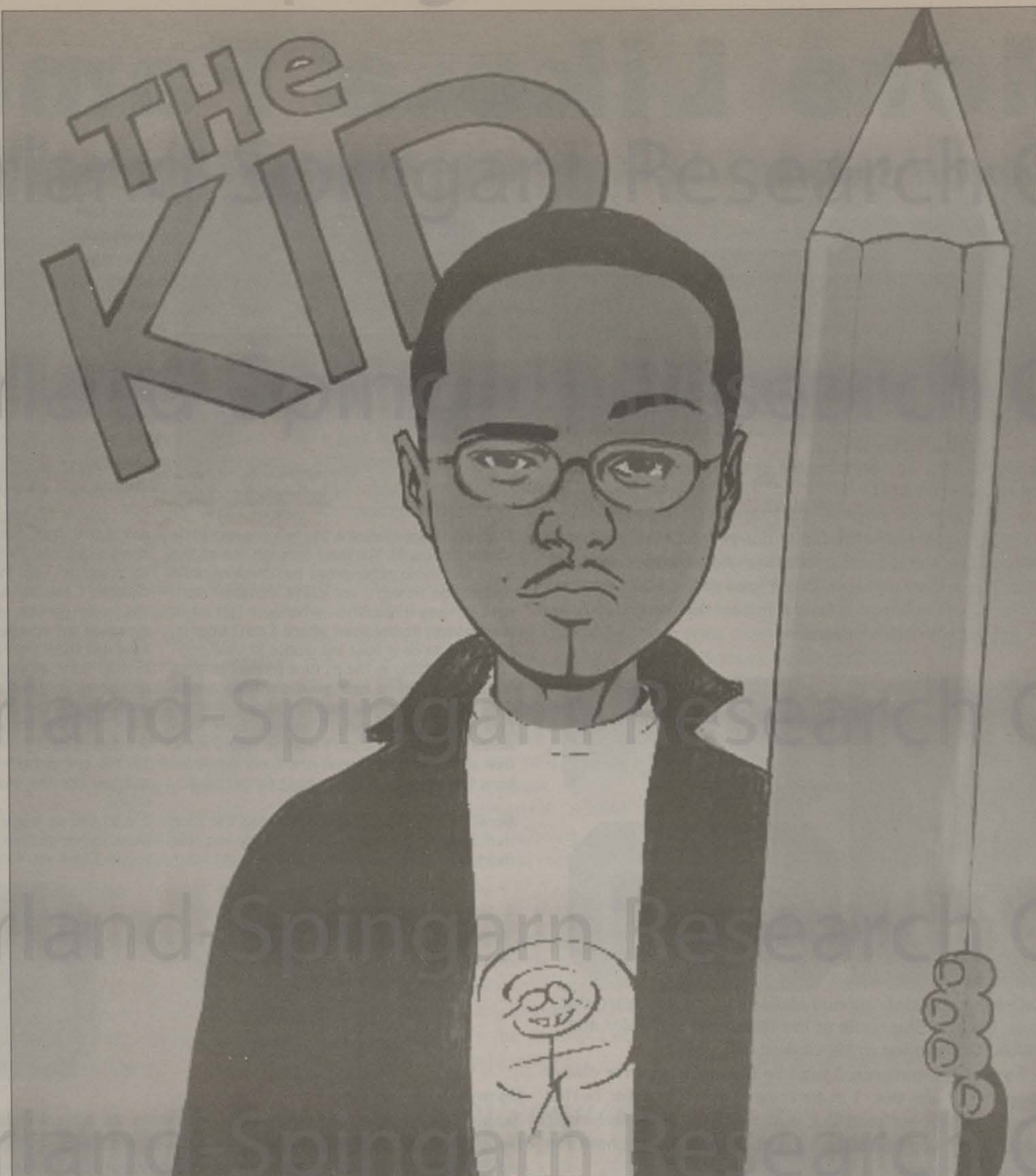


Okay, okay so I'm not gonna be the next Stuart Scott exactly, (not yet at least) however, upon graduation, I will be making that journey to Bristol, Conn. to start my career at yes...ESPN.

I will be a Production Assistant, which entails producing the hilites, bumps and teases you see on SportsCenter, ESPNNews, Baseball Tonight and all those other specialty shows. That's just one aspect of the position, but I will be involved in all aspects of production. It's hard work, but I loved the job when I interned last summer (when the above was taken) and I look forward to going back!



# DRAWING



# CONS

Corey

It's a beautiful thing when you can get paid to do something you love. I haven't yet figured out a way to turn sleeping into profit, but this drawing thing, on the other hand, certainly worked out.

I've been doing it ever since I could hold a pencil. Dropping the nicest stick figures a two-year-old could scribble. I've been doing it for years for family and for friends. For fun and for free. Then I finally decided that all the hours spent in the back of classrooms, ignoring lectures and drawing professors with big heads should count for something.

I wasn't sure how I'd do when I applied for the job, seeing as I'd never used my art professionally before now (Yes, I lied about my experience in the interview. But *they* lied too when they made me rock a tie while they were wearing sweats). I had grandiose ideas of what it would be like nevertheless.

In some ways, I'm disappointed. I was never really as profound or intellectually challenging as I'd intended to

be. I never stirred people up as much or created as much controversy as I'd hoped. And the screaming hordes of cartoon-loving females have yet to engulf me. Add to that, I officially ran out of jokes some time in October and you can see where I'm coming from.

But the pros heavily out-weighed the cons. I'm better now than I was a year ago. The Hilltop helped me define my style and refine my technique. It helped expose me to people who would not have otherwise seen my work. People have hollered at me and have shown me how to take it to new levels. More than anything, it helped me realize how much I really love and need drawing. Regardless, every week I looked forward to the disembodied voice giving me a new assignment over the phone Charlie's Angel-style.

Seeing as my job never required me to actually be *in* the Hilltop office for more than ten seconds, I was never really a regular member of the Hilltop fam. I was more like that crazy uncle with "problems" that showed up every now and then at reunions. Ninety-nine percent of the staff couldn't pick me out of a line-up, which is perfect should I decide to resume my life of crime. But I still *do* have some big ups to pass around.

So, big ups to my very first editor, Charlie, who disappeared like a genie while I was blinking. Big ups to Nakisha, who kept me painfully reminded how forgettable I am to women every time I sat waiting for a perspective to fill my inbox. And big ups to the rookie, Ashley R, who I haven't worked with too long (and ever seen), but seems like cool enough people.

The only other people I had contact with on the regular were Father Joe, the HNIC, who, for some reason, asks me if I'm alright, in a concerned tone, whenever he sees me (just like that uncle with problems), Mir Yum, the Naps Girl, who I sporadically pester with IM's and Ashley K, who I occasionally run into on the street and have small talk with about things like why I hate wearing coats. So, additional big ups to them and anybody else that thinks big ups from me are important.

That's it. I'm done (I think). And, no matter what people tell me to soup me up and make my hats feel tighter, I *know* there are artists at Howard better than I am. It's their turn to step up and set new standards. I'm going back to sleep.



# From Soraya . . .



**E**veryone! I haven't left the planet! I promise. These days, I really only need four away messages for instant messenger: sleeping, in class, with boyfriend, or in Hilltop office. That is honestly what my life has come to. I knew The Hilltop would monopolize my life long before I started busting my tail to produce the best sports section I could possibly muster, but I'm still glad things are finally winding down.

I have become a Hilltop junkie: I have Quark on my computer; my teachers have grown accustomed to seeing me sleepwalk into their class the morning after production night, or more often, not seeing me because I was too dog tired to sleepwalk to class after production night. Every time I read something, I end up correcting it because copy editing has become second nature to me.

*Danielle*, we can't laugh about Dave Chappelle together if you don't watch. *Shani*, I know you will do absolutely marvelous at the District Chronicles, but that doesn't mean I don't miss you already. *Aisha*- you will kick ass at ESPN just like you did last summer and even though they will work you to the bone, you will love it. *Josef*- My boyfriend is not autistic! *Kaneicia*- I have watched you grow into an amazing writer and I know you will only get better. Keep workin' hard. *Ruth*- (I mean Velma) I am so looking forward to next year . . . especially if the dungeon is actually transformed into a real newsroom the way you said it would be. *Asha*- Best of luck doing whatever you're going to be doing; I will miss all the funny random things that you say. And thank you for not screwing up my copy!

Mr. Hill, Romanda, and the folks at All-Pro Photography: You are all amazing! Thank you so very much for making my job so much easier, for all of your support, advice, and all of the truly great photographs.

*Kermit*- You make me scream sometimes, but more often you make me smile and you make me a better person. I want to be like you when I grow up. As hardheaded as you may be, you are equally selfless, kind, thoughtful, and intelligent. Thank you for coming down to the office/dungeon and keeping me company when I really didn't want to be there. -Miss Piggy

*P.S. - Happy Birthday, Baby!*



L7

## ARION JAMERSON

H-TOP

**Miss Boughetto-** Girl hang in there. You are doing so well with recovering from your surgery. Congratulations on the new job, there is so much you are capable of doing. I knew you could do it. Try to stay out da DRAMA, please. Say I just want be happy.

**Uh Oh-** Girl what you haven't said is the real question. On da real side you have been a cool @\$\$ person to live with and I couldn't ask for anyone better. I will miss living with you next year. You know me just like I know you and that will never change.

**Guardian Angel-** I have gotten to know you so well this year. Where were you last year??? It's been a great year, especially with all da drama yall people bring to my life. You have got to stop being so mean, New York. Have some compassion, everybody didn't grow up where we did.

**Fantasy???** I would say I missed you but I see you all da time. Not living together didn't change a thing between us. I LOVE you. Well I think you have me beat on the # of dates this year. I wish I was pretty too.

**Schizo-** Girl you know you got issues and I mean a lot. I can always count on you for a mall trip or to order some food. I'm glad I got to know u better this year, you have shown your TRUE self and MANY faces. Keep you ear to the talk, I can count always on you.

**Sell Out-** Don't leave us girl? No, how could you. I understand soccer is your love. We all miss you, it hasn't been the same. We been having the late nights but its not chillin and laughing, we're actually doing work. I guess we'll catch you at SU.

Holla back  
-Good Game

L7



**Aisha-** I will miss you next year. You know you been holding it down all year but thats how CALI do.

**Shani-** I guess I have you to thank for getting no sleep all year, but what a wonderful experience. Don't leave me Girl!

**Poet-** Yo look at you trying to come up knowing quark. You keep Wednesday nite going no matter what time.

**Maya-** Yo our \$hit is gonna be tight, you know what I mean. You keep da flows going and I always laught at da jokes when we be on that late nite grind.

**Danielle-** Everything is gonna be aleight. You are such a great person everything will work out. i miss ya.

**Nakisha-** You know about that CALI love. You will always get your way which what i like about you, never settle for something below your standards.

**Ruth-** It's gonna be a great year next year. i hope we work out everything so it can run uh so smooth.

**Josef-** Thanks for all the problems. I couldn't lay-out a page without you in my face, I guess I'll miss that.

**Rhasheema-** I'm looking forward to working many, many, many hours with you next year. Your so SEWEEET.

**Professor Lamb-** I love working with you. You know so much and I'm glad your willing to share.

**CALI CLUB**  
**Shani, Aisha, Rhasheema, Miyanda, Arion, Jozen, CC, Chizoba, and Nakisha.**  
**YALL KNOW WE BE HOLDING IT DOWN!!**

Holla at yall next year!!

CREW



# ...you never know...

*Things don't always go the way you expect them to go. This year has taught me that. This year has also taught me when things don't go your way, something better will come along, as long as you let it. Hence, the most important thing I've learned (from my parents and from observing the folly of others) that slamming a door on one opportunity in anticipation of another is silly. These lessons left me in a great position ... I couldn't lose either way I went. So, with that said, please take it from me - when everything seems awful, life can only get better. -SOH*

**My 'Rents** - You kids are the best. Without you, I wouldn't be here. Literally. I mean, the whole feeding me, clothing me, providing me with shelter ... I love you so much. Daddy, you give so much great advice. Mom, your support makes me feel loved. Thank you both. And I apologize in advance for any curse words that follow.

**Aisha** - What can be said about someone as amazing as you are? There are the adjectives: unselfish, friendly, dedicated, smart, funny, talented, family-oriented, etc. But even those words aren't quite adequate. I've never known a person who did so much for others without seeking something, *anything*, in return. Plus, I've discovered that I can't lose with you as an advocate. When I wanted *this*, you did your best to help me get it; and when I went up for *that*, you put in a good word for me. You've put up with a lot of aggravation while working for *The Hilltop*, and I know that without you, this paper would suffer. If there's ever a day you don't feel appreciated, please know that at least *some* of here recognize everything you've done.

**Ronnie** - You are a true friend. When I first met you, I never would have thought we'd get along so well ... but we understand each other perfectly, and that's something you don't find every day. I'll never forget how you said waaaaay back "Shani bean, you and I are going to be good friends." And it looks like your prediction is coming true. I truly appreciate everything you've done for me - from cab fare to advice, laughter to just listening. (And I'm still really sorry about the camera.) But anyway, after everything you've been through, you remain strong and dedicated, and I will always, *always*, be fiercely devoted to you. I love you very much, and I know even if I traveled the world over, I'd never find a friend quite like you, Arion. \*Cue tears.\*

**Asha** - You have the soul of a post-chrysalis caterpillar. You're an orange moon. A warm blanket on a cold starry night. An exit sign out of reality and into a magical world of sunlight and flowers.

And other such things. Good luck with everything.

**Danielle** - Scruggs, you're not half bad. And by that, I mean you're pretty doggone cool. I enjoyed getting to know you better this year, and I look forward to spending the summer working with you in Jersey. I think our friendship will last at least as long as our fathers' has. So, here's to

guy. I appreciate you picking me up from HUH and our nice chats about your romantic ... shall we say ... *proclivities*. I wish you all the best, and if you stay out here, don't forget to call me every once in a while.

**Maya** - M-A-Y-A! It's been two years, and our time together at H. Psi Phi is drawing to a close (for now). We were the coolest

to yourself - and others. I really like you a lot, and I hope we can work together at some point next year. Two junior EICs will be a force to be reckoned with!

**Rhasheema** - Although we didn't get to know each other all that well, I'm really hoping that doesn't remain the case. You are such a sweet person, and I hope we touch base from time to time. I

in the future.

**Charisse** - Reese, I adore you. You're one of the funniest, most caring people I know, and having you as a friend these last two years has made my Howard experience amazing. You're so beautiful and smart - and you make a great surrogate mom. It means so much when you tell me you're proud of me, because I admire you immensely. It's been hard living in a different dorm this year ... there were so many times I wished I could just run next door and fall on your floor, complaining about whatever was bothering me. But I think our bond has grown stronger, because when we see each other, we make the most of it. I can't wait to see what the future has in store.

**Shaunda (b.k.a. Greazy)** - Greaze, you're another one of those people I look at and just say, "wow." You do so much, and do it all well. When I think about you, I think about a generous, sweet, and very funny individual who I hope will always be a good friend. Although we may not talk everyday, I feel like we have an understanding that goes beyond words.

**Stephnie** - There's no one quite like you. Anywhere. Plus, we've got that Jamaican connection. And yeah, I may only be half, but I've been to the island five more times than you have. So, ha! But seriously, you're doing great things ... I'll definitely send my kids to you for checkups.

**StaVe** - I love you. You will always be special to me, no matter what happens.

**"The Group"** - I'm a proud member of the Slowe Chapter of 'The Group.' Shout-outs go to John, you "B\*\*\*h!"; Lauren, my future wife; Carlton, "Conceited For A Reason," or as I like to call him, "Unofficial Boyfriend;" Dommie, my "special guy;" Amir, everyone's favorite sadist; Chev, everyone's favorite drunk, and Reka, who says nice things about my hair. I love you all!



the next thirty years ... and that Degraasi love.

**Prof. Dixon** - I'm so glad to have someone like you in my corner. I really appreciate everything you've done, and all of the advice you've given me. I hope to make you proud.

**Fivel** - Thanks for all of the rides back to Slowe, and for the valuable, if somewhat jaded, relationship advice. I hope to see a lot of you next year ... and if you ever need anyone to pick through your hair for tasty bugs, I'm your girl-illa. Love ya!

**Jozen** - We've had our ups and downs, and although I don't always agree with your choices, I can honestly say you're a good

freshman that paper had seen in years, and we've left a mark. Working with you has been a pleasure - as you are the downest chick I know. I definitely f\*\*\*\* wit you. (And thanks for the Birthday Bar.)

**Nakisha** - I think the best thing I can say to you is this: Hang in There. 'Cause if you don't, THIS will be the face of someone who is Not Amused.

**Prof. Lamb** - You are soooo supportive and helpful, I'm going to miss working with you on a regular basis, but you'll definitely still be seeing a lot of me.

**Ruth** - I'm proud of you, T.I., because despite everything, you have remained genuine and true

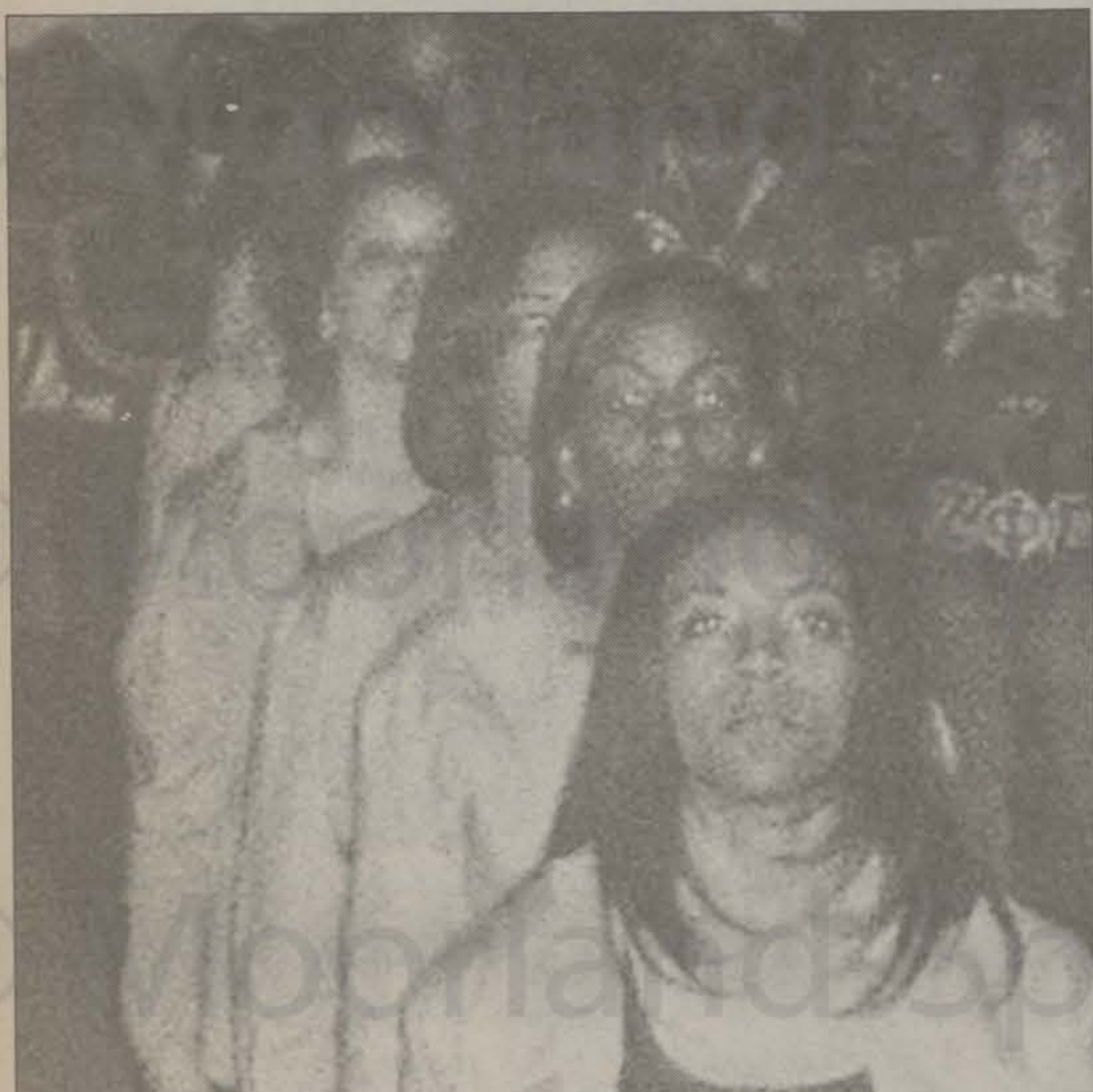
wish you all the best as ME, and I know you'll bring Tuesday up to snuff.

**Soraya** - Hey sis, how are ya? Your section has been consistently tight, and I think you are incredibly creative. Whatever happens for you in the future, I'm sure you'll be a success, because you're simply too dedicated not to be.

**St. P.** - I know I've been disappointed with you more than a couple times this year, but despite all of that, I still genuinely like you. That's probably because I know you're doing big things for SOMEONE out there, if not me. Keep in mind, I'm depending on you for congressional interviews



# A WHOLE NEW WAY TO LOOK AT BUSINESS



"She's On The Money" was inspired by Michelle Singletary of the *Post* (far right). My NYT internship enhanced my knowledge of journalism. I would also like to thank the sorors, especially my LS's, of Alpha Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Sooooo Sweet!

# ABOUT THE BIZ

At the beginning of the year, when *The Hilltop* approached me to take over the Business & Technology section, I was thrilled.

It was exactly what I wanted to do. Since I had been away from campus publications for a semester, I viewed this opportunity as the perfect segue back into my collegiate journalism career. Because I have been interested in business journalism since my internship through the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and my minor in the School of Business, I was ready to get started.

Since my first section on Tuesday, January 27, I have run about 40 articles over 10 issues. Looking back, it's hard to believe that it is finally over but time really does fly when you're having fun.

From beginning to end, my section has developed from a conservative one pager in the A-section to a two-pager in the B-Section. I have watched my section improve as I took a more active role in each issue, including the layout and production processes.

Through my knowledge and interest in business journalism, I have tried to expand the Biz & Tech section of the paper to make it more college-student friendly. I wanted the section to be not only interesting, but also to stand out. I didn't want to focus solely on local businesses and entrepreneurship. I wanted my readers to appreciate a relevant and upbeat business section with a wide variety of stories. So I focused my section on the most captivating, reader-friendly topics ranging from the latest technology (*The Latest Craze in the Cell Phone Industry: TV*, March 9) to the business world as it relates to students (*Latest Bank Merger Sparks Concern Among HU Students*, February 3).

I pushed the limits with stories such as an article on celebrity-inspired, pricey fashions (*Fashion Choices Often Guided by Celebrities*, February 24) and another on

the release of the latest sneakers with built-in spinning rims (*Spinners Now Worn on Shoes, Rims, Necks*, March 2).

Also, my column complemented my stories through the use of pertinent information and a light-hearted, airy writing style.

"She's On The Money" is inspired by one of my favorite columnists and journalists, Michelle Singletary of the *Washington Post*. My objective has been to educate and entertain but not overwhelm or bore my readers. Over the past several weeks, I have offered advice and tips to college students on their handling of money, including a column specifically to warn college students against unnecessary credit card use. Overall, I have received a lot of positive feedback from my column. Although I have only been a section editor for a semester, I have enjoyed my experience and am proud to be a part of *The Hilltop*.

Over the course of the semester, I have grown extensively as a journalist. In addition to *The Hilltop*, I also interned in the Washington bureau of *The New York Times*. I have benefited from the resources of the paper, editors and reporters. While it was difficult at times to manage my time between the two newsrooms, I have taken full advantage of both opportunities. In the end, I am most proud of having bylines in both papers during the same week. This summer, I will continue to stay immersed in journalism. I will spend two weeks in New Orleans at *The New York Times'* Student Journalism Institute. Afterwards, I will intern on the business desk at the *Chicago Tribune*. I believe this summer will further equip me to help improve the quality of the newspaper next school year as Managing Editor.

**Rhasheema A. Sweeting**  
Business & Technology Editor

## Sources of Inspiration...

### The New York Times

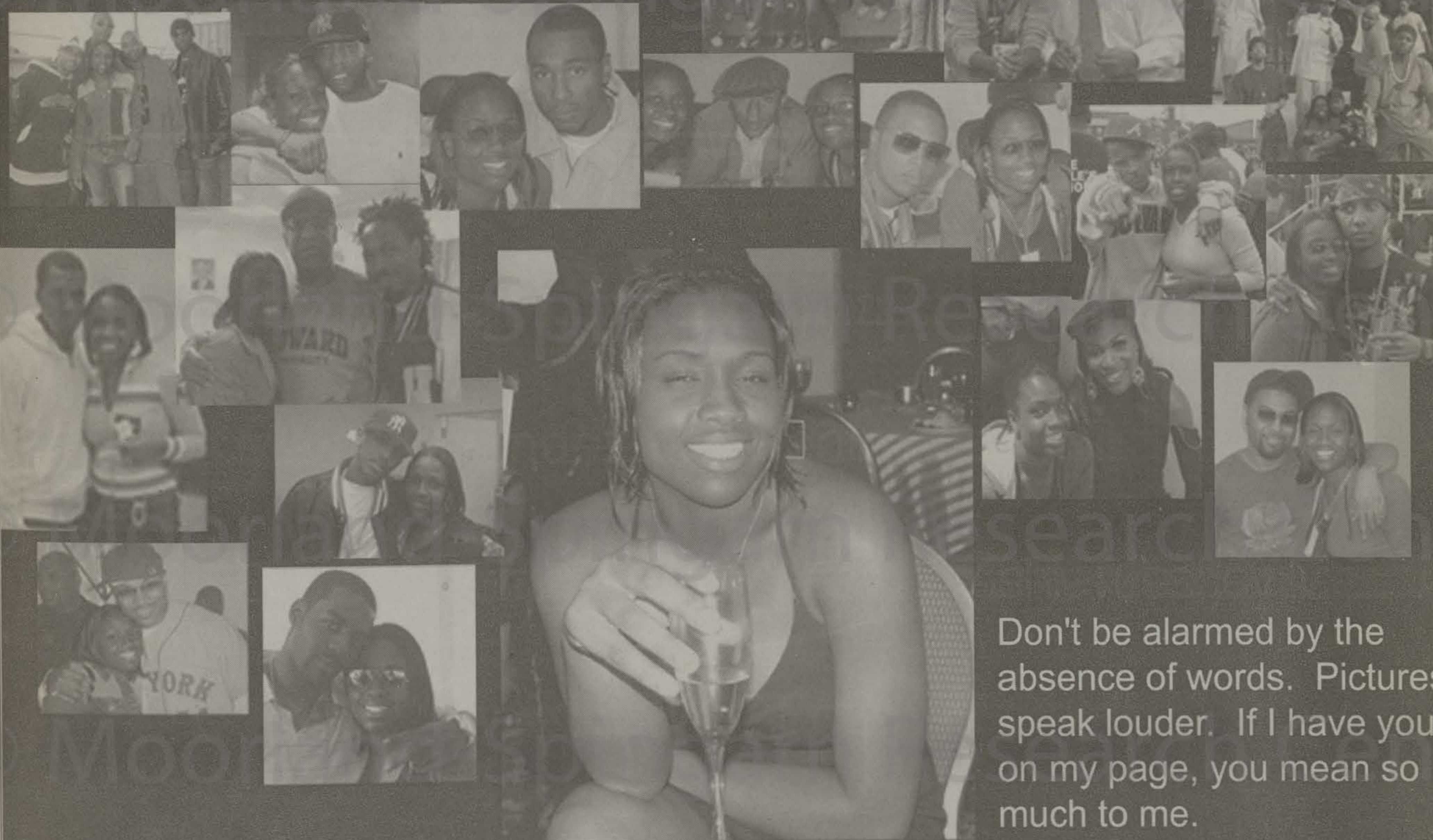
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)





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Don't be alarmed by the absence of words. Pictures speak louder. If I have you on my page, you mean so much to me.

-maya g.

MY PEOPLES....







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